



NEWS

RELEASE

INDIANA DISTRICT OFFICE
U. S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

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REGULATORY FAIRNESS BOARD SET TO HEAR FROM SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS IN INDIANA

Indianapolis - Small business owners with concerns, comments or complaints about federal regulatory enforcement can voice their comments at a U.S. Small Business Administration Regulatory Fairness Board Hearing in Indianapolis at the Indiana World War Memorial, 431 North Meridian Street, on Tuesday, Dec. 4, 8:30 a.m. - noon.

The hearing will be conducted by SBA National Ombudsman Michael Barrera. **“Small businesses want and deserve a fair federal regulatory enforcement process,”** Barrera said. **“They want a common sense approach to problem-solving, and a strong voice in the regulatory process.”**

The SBA, through the national ombudsman, works directly with federal regulatory agencies to create a more business-friendly regulatory environment and resolve complaints. Congress created the Office of the National Ombudsman in 1996 with the passage of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act (SBREFA).

The act established 10 regional fairness boards, served by 50 small business owners from across the country, appointed to hear from small businesses about regulatory enforcement and compliance by federal agencies. In Region V, which includes the Indiana District Office, the

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regional fairness board is chaired by Hardie Blake of Bethel Business Machines, Mishawaka, Ind.

Based in part upon information gathered at these hearings, the national ombudsman prepares an annual report to Congress with findings and recommendations on the regulatory environment and how it affects small business.

The national ombudsman's authority to respond to complaints is limited to federal regulatory enforcement matters and does not include issues dealing with obtaining federal contracts or securing guaranteed loans.

Anyone who would like to attend the hearing can contact Janice Wolfe, the SBA's district director in Indiana at (317) 226-7272. For more information about the national ombudsman, visit SBA's Web site at www.sba.gov/ombudsman

The SBA helps small businesses each year with access to capital and credit through its financial assistance programs, as well as assisting small business owners with technical training and counseling services. For more information about all of the SBA's programs for small businesses, call the SBA Answer Desk at 1-800-U-ASK-SBA or TDD 704-344-6640. Also, visit the SBA's extensive Web site at www.sba.gov.

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